

## » SPOTLIGHT



As this year's award committee deliberated about whom to give the second annual Spotlight: The Rice Design Alliance Prize, the up-and-coming architect Sou Fujimoto rose to the top as the unanimous choice. The award, which recognizes an exceptionally gifted architect in the early phase of their professional career, carries a cash prize.

Graduating from the University of Tokyo's Department of Architecture in 1994, Fujimoto established Sou Fujimoto Architects in 2000. Fujimoto's work, which he defines as "formless form" where the architecture exists between nature and artifact, has garnered multiple awards and much praise. Many of his projects employ material layering to heighten sensory experience, perhaps most evident in the log-stacking of Wooden House.

Spotlight committee member and professor at the Rice School of Architecture Carlos Jiménez says, "Fujimoto has managed in a short time to build his own unmistakable position through works that surprise with their multifaceted simplicity. These works might be initially read as minimal, yet on closer inspection they reveal a more complex reading where program, culture, and nature produce an abundance of architecture."

Eligible honorees for the Spotlight Prize must be within their first 15 years of professional practice. An RDA committee of architects and academics convenes annually to consider local, national, and international architects who demonstrate design excellence and promise a great design future. Fujimoto formally accepted the RDA prize and presented his lecture on September 7.

## CALENDAR

### FALL LECTURES

#### RICE DESIGN ALLIANCE:

##### MATERIAL WORLD

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
Brown Auditorium  
Wednesdays, 7 p.m.  
[ricedesignalliance.org](http://ricedesignalliance.org)

The public and RDA members are invited to hear the following speakers during the series:

BLAINE BROWNELL

**October 6**

Transstudio  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
[transstudio.com](http://transstudio.com)

GAIL PETER BORDEN

**October 13**

Borden Partnership  
Los Angeles  
[bordenpartnership.com](http://bordenpartnership.com)

DAVID GRESHAM

**October 20**

Material ConneXion  
New York  
[materialconnexion.com](http://materialconnexion.com)

JOHN FERNANDEZ

**October 27**

Associate Professor  
Massachusetts Institute  
of Technology  
[architecture.mit.edu](http://architecture.mit.edu)

#### RICE UNIVERSITY:

Rice School of Architecture  
Atrium, 5:30 p.m.

DAVID JOSELIT

**October 7 2010**

Art Historian, Yale

MICHAEL MALTZAN

**October 14 2010**

Architect, Los Angeles

ALEJANDRO ZAERA-POLO

**October 28**

Architect, London

NEIL LEVINE

**November 11**

Art Historian, Harvard

MARC SIMMONS

**November 15**

Partner, Front, New York

#### UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON:

Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture  
Auditorium, Room 150

EMILIO SAID, GALLERY EXHIBIT

**October 7 - November 20**

6:30-7:30 p.m.

DAN WOOD & AMALE ANDRAOS

**October 15**

6-7:30 p.m.

WORK Architecture Company

GEORGE BEYLERIAN

**October 21**

5-7 p.m.

Material ConneXion

MALCOLM HOLZMAN

**October 26**

3-4 p.m.

Holzman Moss Bottino

MARVIN MALECHA

**November 2**

11:30-1 p.m.

California State Polytechnic  
University, Pomona

JEAN FRANCOIS LEJEUNE

**November 9**

3-4 p.m.

University of Florida

MARTEN CLAESSION

**November 16**

6-7:30 p.m.

Claeccion, Koivisto, Rune

#### AIA HOUSTON

Architecture Center Houston (ArCH)  
315 Capitol, Suite 120

AUTHOR PRESENTATION,

RECEPTION

**October 21**

*Bracket: Architecture, Environment,  
Digital Culture*

6-8 p.m.

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### RDA ADOPTS CITE CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

In order to avoid conflicts of interest in the selection of *Cite* articles and authors, the editorial committee and the RDA board adopted a set of procedures and guidelines.

For more information, visit the *Cite* website: [citemag.org/about](http://citemag.org/about).

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### COUNTERCULTURE

I have just finished reading *Cite* 82 cover to cover, and am amazed at the breadth of coverage and understanding of Houston's counter-cultural movement of the '60s and '70s—in fact I had forgotten a large portion of it!

One thing that I kept thinking of, however, was that the general unrest at the heart of that movement also fueled a real game-change in Houston politics, executed "counter" to a countercultural movement. Citizens for Good Schools was formed in the late 1960s, stimulated by the general

outrage concerning the HISD school board and its segregationist, white supremacist, conservative majority. With the political smarts of a lot of locals, including many native recent law school graduates, the group, loosely organized at first, elected George Oser in 1967—the first successful progressive candidate since Gertrude Barnstone represented a lonely, liberal point of



view. Two years later, CGS elected its entire slate of candidates to claim the majority, in a sweep that included Eugenie Kamrath and Eleanor Tinsley in their first forays into politics. What immediately followed for the school district was the selection of visionary General Superintendents, and the acceptance of the magnet school concept, as a path to integration of one of the nation's

largest systems.

Citizens for Good Schools was a political incubator for many of us—and a great example of what can happen in a city if enough people care, are energized, and are committed to work within the system to make our city a better place to live. For me, this movement was very much a counterpart of the other, counter-cultural movement that helped make Houston the diverse, creative stew of a city that it is today.

**Barry Moore**